

1784

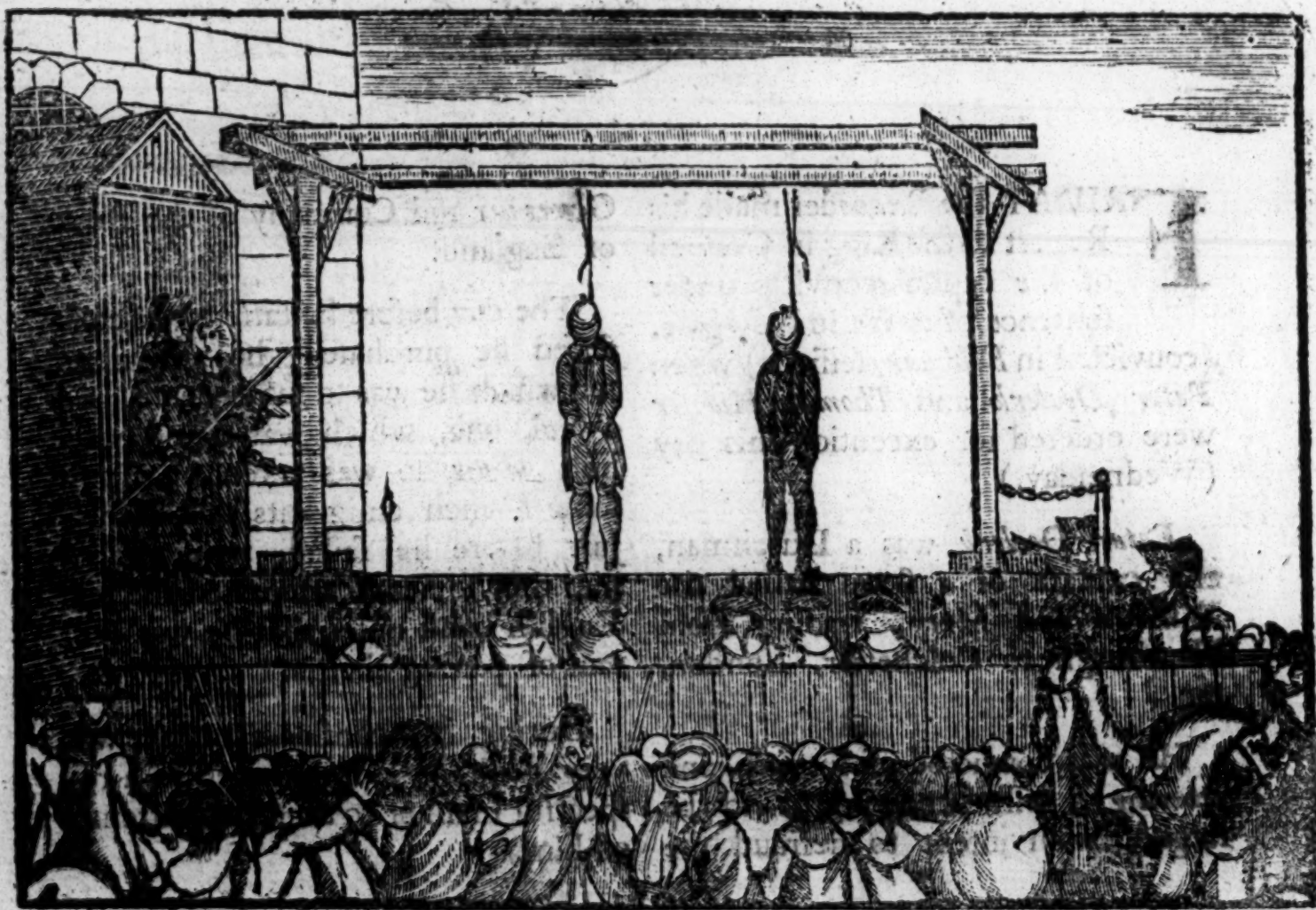
1242 K.2

R. Decker (P.)

The last Dying Speech and Con-
fession, Parentage and Behaviour, of the
TWO UNFORTUNATE
MALEFACTORS,

Executed this Day before the Debtor's Door, Newgate.

To which is added, The Copy of a most excellent Prayer, written and
used by *Thomas Hunter*, during his Confinement, and is recommended
to the Use of every Person.



Printed and Sold in London.



The last Dying Speech, &c.



FRIDAY the Recorder made his Report to the King in Council of the capital convicts under sentence of death in Newgate, (convicted in *February* sessions) when *Peter Declerk* and *Thomas Hunter* were ordered for execution this day (Wednesday.)

Peter Declerk was a Dutchman, and captain of a sloop called the *William and Mary*, trading from *Hamburgh* to *Colchester*, *London*, &c.

He was convicted of forging and uttering a bill, knowing it to be forged, with intent to defraud the

Governor and Company of the Bank of England.

The day before he suffered he confessed he purchased the 20l. note, for which he was to suffer death, and a 50l. one, which was found upon him when he was taken up, from some French emigrants at *Hambro'* just before he sailed, who assured him they so nearly resembled the real English bank notes that he was certain of passing them.

During his confinement he was very penitent, and behaved in a respectful manner to those who attended him.

He was about forty years of age, has left a wife and three children at Hamburgh to lament his untimely end; of whom he never spoke but tears flowed from his eyes.

Thomas Hunter was convicted of a burglary in the house of Mrs. Elliot in Queen-Ann-Street East.

He was born of very honest and industrious parents in the west of England, and educated at a free school. When of a proper age he was hired as footboy to a gentleman in the country, in whose service he continued some years. About three years ago he came to London and was hired as footman by a gentleman at the west end of the town, where he soon launched into all the extravagance and folly too prevalent amongst servants, without the means of supporting it; he was detected in some dishonest practices and discharged. Having now lost his character, he supported himself for some time by house-breaking, &c. which has brought on him a disgraceful death.

While under sentence of death he behaved himself in a most penitent and becoming manner.

He was dressed in black, and was only 26 years of age.

He was never married, but has left a mother to lament his untimely end.

A PRAYER,

Used by T. Hunter while under Sentence of Death.

JESUS, lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide:
O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none:
Hangs my helpless soul on thee:
Leave, ah! leave me not alone;
Still support and comfort me:
All my trust on thee is stay'd,
All mine help from thee I bring;
Cover mine defenceless head
With the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ! art all I want;
More than all in thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name:
I am all unrighteousness:
Vile and full of sin I am:
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to pardon all my sin:
Let the healing streams abound;
Make, and keep me pure within:
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of thee:
Spring thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

The night before they suffered the St. Sepulchre's Bellman came into the press-yard, at nine o'clock, and after ringing his bell, pronounced the admonition verses, reminding them of their dreadful situation, and exhorting them to watch and pray, that they might obtain forgiveness of their sins.

The fatal day being come, on which they was to undergo their dreadful sentence, at five o'clock the doors of their cell was unlocked, and they soon after went up to the chapel, where they joined in prayers and supplications to the Divine Majesty, and then received the sacrament.

They were then summoned to their fate, and came down into the press-

yard, where their irons were knocked off; they was then haltered and brought upon the scaffold, when the executioner having tied them up, the Ordinary prayed with them for some time, and then took his leave; the cap was pulled over their eyes, the Sheriff gave a signal, when the scaffold sunk down, and they were launched into everlasting happiness or misery.

After hanging the usual time, their bodies were cut down, and delivered to their friends for interment.

The concourse of people to witness this melancholy occurrence was very numerous; the Old Bailey was crowded long before the unfortunate men were brought forth.

5 JA 33

